

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 SSC-01 ACDA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3623

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS BANGKOK 13962

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, LA, CB, VM, TH

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS ON THAI RELATIONS WITH
INDOCHINA COUNTRIES

1. IN AIRPORT NEWS CONFERENCE ON JUNE 19 UPON HIS RETURN FROM INDONESIA, FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT STATED THAT INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THAILAND'S RELATIONS WITH INDOCHINA. UPPADIT SAID HE HAD TOLD MALIK THAT BASIS OF THAI RELATIONS WAS MUTUAL RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. THAILAND WOULD NEVER PERMIT ANY INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND IF NEIGHBORS WISHED GOOD RELATIONS WITH THAILAND, THEY SHOULD ADHERE TO THOSE PRINCIPALS.

2. REGARDING CAMBODIA, UPPADIT SAID THAT THAI LIAISON OFFICE IN ARANYAPRATHET CONTINUED TO ENDEAVOR TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIAN LIAISON OFFICE IN POIPET BUT CAMBODIANS SEEMED DELIBERATELY TO BE AVOIDING ANY CONTACT. IN RECENT WEEKS NOBODY AT THE CAMBODIAN LIAISON OFFICE, FOR EXAMPLE, EVER ANSWERED THE PHONE WHEN THAIS ATTEMPTED TO CALL.
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BECAUSE OF UNDESIRABLE INCIDENTS ALONG THE BORDER, THAILAND HAD PROPOSED THAT A JOINT COMMITTEE BE ESTABLISHED TO DELINEATE A DEFINITE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. CAMBODIA HAD SO FAR COMPLETELY IGNORED THE PROPOSAL.

3. UPPADIT CALLED LAOS A "SISTER COUNTRY" WITH WHICH THAILAND SHARED RELIGION, CUSTOMS AND CULTURE. THAILAND

AND LAOS, THEREFORE, OUGHT TO BE GOOD FRIENDS AND IT WAS THAILAND'S INTENTION TO PROMOTE GOOD RELATIONS. THAILAND HAD SENT TO VIENTIANE A DELEGATION HEADED BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO NEGOTIATE A RESUMPTION OF COMMERCIAL AIR FLIGHTS, AND AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED FOR THEIR RESUMPTION.

4. AS SOON AS COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS WITH LAOS ARE RESUMED. THAILAND WOULD SEND ANOTHER DELEGATION, ALSO HEADED BY THE UNDERSECRETARY, TO NEGOTIATE AIR RIGHTS OVER VIET-NAM WITH THE VIETNAMESE STATIONED IN VIENTIANE. UPPADIT STATED THAT HANOI HAD ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS BETWEEN THAILAND AND VIET-NAM WOULD ALSO BE HELD IN VIENTIANE, A PROPOSAL STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT AS SOON AS THE THAI AMBASSADOR TO LAOS TOOK UP HIS DUTIES IN VIENTIANE, HE WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR THERE.
WHITEHOUSE

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